



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

June 5, 2019

The Hon. Lawrence Hogan, Governor
State House, 2nd Floor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Governor Hogan:

We write to you today urging you to commit to releasing \$1.6 million in aid to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) that has been included in the Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget. As you are aware, BSO management recently announced their intention to cancel the orchestra's summer programming and reduce the orchestra's season to 40 weeks. It is our understanding that these decisions were made, in part, because of uncertainty whether you would release funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

We are concerned that these actions may have an irreversible impact on the quality of this world-class orchestra and will unfairly impact the BSO musicians and their families. Time is of the essence, as BSO management plans to cease paying the musicians after June 16th.

Nobody will dispute that the BSO must make significant changes to its current practices if they are to be sustainable for the long term. That is why the legislation to provide short term financial support also created a working group that will bring everyone to the table to make those choices. Both the working group and the financial assistance are necessary to ensure the things that make the BSO a world-class orchestra are not lost during any restructuring.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra is truly a statewide cultural resource, performing regularly at the Strathmore in Montgomery County and at events across the state. Their education programs reach schools in nearly every Maryland county and even internationally. Losing the BSO or seeing it diminished would be a tremendous loss for Maryland. Again, we urge you to commit to releasing the \$1.6 million grant to the BSO included in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Sincerely,

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Delegate Tawanna Gaines, District 22
Delegate Brooke Lierman, District 46
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46
Delegate Eric Ebersole, District 12

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Senator Bill Ferguson, District 46
Senator Antonio Hayes, District 40
Senator Ben Kramer, District 19
Senator Brian Feldman, District 15

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Delegate Courtney Watson, District 9
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, District 20
Delegate Steve Johnson, District 34A
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Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13
Delegate Karen Lewis Young, District 3A
Delegate Dana Stein, District 11
Delegate Luke Clippinger, District 46
Delegate Charles Sydnor, District 44B
Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, District 21
Delegate Kirill Reznik, District 39
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19
Delegate Ken Kerr, District 3B
Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15
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Delegate Heather Bagnall, District 33
Delegate Sara Love, District 16
Delegate Jon Cardin, District 11
Delegate Benjamin Brooks, District 10
Delegate Mark Chang, District 32
Delegate Shelly Hettleman, District 11
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, District 12
Delegate Pam Queen, District 14
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Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, District 23A
Delegate Vaughn Stewart, District 19
Delegate Steve Lafferty, District 42A
Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, District 41
Delegate Ben Barnes, District 21
Delegate Mary Lehman, District 21
Delegate Jared Solomon, District 18

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Senator Kathy Klausmeier, District 8
Senator Sarah Elfreth, District 30
Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47
Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, District 23
Senator Joanne Benson, District 24
Senator Guy Guzzone, District 13
Senator Will Smith, District 20
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Senator Clarence Lam, District 12
Senator Craig Zucker, District 14
Senator Ron Young, District 3
Senator Jim Rosapepe, District 21

Delegate Alonzo Washington, District 22
Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45
Delegate Alice Cain, District 30A
Delegate Emily Shetty, District 18
Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 27C
Delegate Carol Krimm, District 3A
Delegate Edith Patterson, District 28
Delegate Curt Anderson, District 43
Delegate Michelle Guyton, District 42B
Delegate Nick Mosby, District 40
Delegate Tony Bridges, District 41
Delegate Terri Hill, District 12
Delegate Pat Young, District 44B
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26
Delegate Eric Luedtke, District 14
Delegate Talmadge Branch, District 45